

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the present application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-6 (canceled).

7. (previously presented) An operating/managing method in an operating/ managing system of a plurality of storage apparatuses, comprising the steps of:

connecting at least two storage apparatuses of at least two storage service providers via at least two storage apparatuses connecting means of said operating/managing system with a computer of an user,

wherein said at least two storage apparatuses include a storage apparatus in use at present, and said at least two storage apparatuses connecting means establish connections with said at least two storage apparatuses respectively;

causing a storage apparatus to be specified, the specified storage apparatus being said storage apparatus in use at present;

holding address information of an address of the specified storage apparatus in storage apparatus information holding means of said operating/managing system;

holding information concerning a property of each of said at least two storage apparatuses connected to said at least two storage apparatuses connecting means in property holding means of said operating/managing system;

causing a desired property to be specified from said computer for use in selecting a storage apparatus to be used next having a property that satisfies the desired property;

causing a particular storage apparatus to be selected from among candidates of storage apparatuses indicated from said operating/managing system by comparing the desired property to the property of each of said at least two storage apparatuses held in said holding means and selecting a storage apparatus having a property that satisfies the desired property as the storage apparatus to be used next;

holding address information of an address of the selected storage apparatus to be used next in said storage apparatus information holding means in addition to the address information of the address of said storage apparatus in use at present;

requesting the selected storage apparatus to create a volume; and

instructing the selected storage apparatus to start duplication of data,

wherein connection destination switching means of said operating/managing system creates a copy of data sent from the computer and changes a source address and a destination address of the copy of data to an address of a corresponding storage apparatus connecting means and the address of the selected storage apparatus to be used next respectively, thereby changing a path of communication between said computer and said storage apparatus in use at present to another path of communication between said computer and the selected storage apparatus to be used next,

wherein said operating/managing system communicates with the selected storage apparatus and writes the copy of data into said selected storage apparatus, and

wherein information duplicating means of said operating/managing system controls reading-out of data from said storage apparatus in use at present and writing-in of said data into said storage apparatus to be used next based on said address information held in said storage apparatus information holding means.

8. (previously presented) The operating/managing method of said storage apparatuses as claimed in Claim 7, subsequent to said step of causing a particular storage apparatus to be selected, said operating/managing method further comprising a step of:

indicating a fee needed for duplication of said data,

wherein said fee is calculated based on the volume allocated in said storage apparatus being in use at present.

9. (previously presented) The operating/managing method of said storage apparatuses as claimed in Claim 7, wherein subsequent to said step of requesting said selected storage apparatus to create a volume, said operating/managing method further comprising a step of:

charging a fee to a user of a storage apparatus operating system that owns said selected storage apparatus.

Claim 10 (canceled).